General

Grant of leave by heads of departments under the Finance Secretary.

* 1712 Q.—Mr. C. S. GOVINDARAJA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the heads of departments under the Finance Secretary have been empowered to grant leave of all kinds

(1) to gazetted officers under their control,

(2) to non-gazetted officers; and

(b) what are the various classes or descriptions of leave which they have been empowered to grant?

A.—(a) (1) Including the officers of the Ecclesiastical department who are under the administrative control of the Local Government acting as the Agent of the Governor-General in Council the following heads of departments alone under the Finance Secretary have been empowered to grant leave to gazetted officers and that only when no extra expense is involved by the grant of the leave—

1. The Presidency Port Officer.
2. The Right Reverend the Bishop of Madras.
3. The Reverend the Presidency Senior Chaplain, Church of Scotland.

The exercise of the power is restricted to leave other than special disability leave and study leave.

(2) As regards non-gazetted officers, all the heads of departments under the Finance Secretary have been empowered to grant leave to subordinates in respect of whom they exercise the powers of appointment. Here too, the exercise of the power is restricted to leave other than special disability leave and study leave.

(b) The various classes of leave which may be granted are—

1. Leave on average pay.
2. Leave on half average pay.
3. Leave not due.
4. Extraordinary leave.
5. Hospital leave.

Mr. C. S. GOVINDARAJA MUDALIYAR:—"With reference to the answer to clause (b), may I know whether a head of the department can refuse leave admissible and recommended by a duly qualified medical officer for reasons of health?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I think the hon. Member will agree with me that it is a question asking for opinion. Can he not put the question in another form?"

Mr. C. S. GOVINDARAJA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, with reference to clause (a), which relates to the power of a head of the department to grant leave, I am asking whether a head of the department can refuse leave when a duly qualified medical officer recommends it."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member may get a copy of the rules and, as a lawyer, he can see if he can put such a question. He is asking for opinion.